

2018 Water Strategy Framework for Implementation

Priority Area: Prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species and control established populations

The Water Strategy includes a recommendation to prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species (AIS) and control established populations. The Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Natural Resources (MDNR) cooperatively implement the state AIS Program. Michigan's AIS State Management Plan was updated and approved by the federal government in 2013 and serves as the program's foundation.

The departments work together and with partners at the regional and local level to block the pathways by which AIS enter and spread in Michigan waters and to advance our collective ability to manage invasive plants and animals that are already harming the environment and economy.

Special consideration and efforts are given to preventing invasive carp (bighead, silver, and black carp) from entering the Great Lakes through regional coordination and actions. The state actively participates in efforts to prevent carp from entering the Great Lakes by engaging with the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, the Chicago Area Waterways Advisory Committee, and the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Separation Study Executive Steering Committee.

In addition, Michigan co-chairs the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. The Task Force recently adopted a regional consensus list for least-wanted AIS, signed a Mutual Aid Agreement, and is implementing a pilot project to harmonize aspects of AIS regulation with Ohio, Ontario, and Michigan. Michigan is also serving as the vice chair of the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, which currently has committees focused on preventing grass carp and developing a risk assessment clearinghouse.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

- The MDNR, MDEQ, and MDARD will continue to work collaboratively to implement Michigan's AIS Program and AIS state management plan, supported by federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants, other grants, restricted funds, and state general funds.
- The MDNR, in collaboration with the MDARD and the MDEQ, will continue to administer the Michigan's Invasive Species Grant Program to support AIS and terrestrial invasive species prevention, detection, and control projects, including efforts to advance management of species like Eurasian watermilfoil and Phragmites.
- The MDEQ and MDNR will implement and improve early detection and response efforts through traditional and new techniques, such as eDNA, and respond to high priority invasive plants and animals like parrot feather milfoil and red swamp crayfish.
- The MDEQ, MDNR, and MDARD will work to prevent the introduction of AIS through key pathways like ballast water.
- The MDARD and MDNR will implement a state law to develop new permitted, prohibited, and restricted species lists based on risk assessments and continue inspections to prevent the introduction of AIS through the trade of live organisms (e.g. bait, live food market, pet trade, aquarium, and water garden).

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- The MDEQ, MDNR, and MDARD will continue enhanced education and outreach efforts to communicate the harmful effects of AIS and to urge citizens to take action to prevent AIS (e.g. Michigan's annual AIS Landing Blitz, conducted in partnership with local entities to reach recreational boaters).
- The MDNR will work to prevent introduction of invasive carp through bait, aquaculture, and canal vectors by enhancing enforcement, engaging in cooperative outreach and education, and working to seek solutions at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam.
- The MDNR will continue to refine response and planning documents for occurrences of invasive carp in Michigan's water.
- Michigan will host an initiative to develop innovative solutions to keep invasive carp (bighead, silver, and black) from entering the Great Lakes.

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